

And to the extent that we need to continue to make that message work, we will try to do so. But the best thing we can do is to show results from our activities and be able to point to the fact that not only did we liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban, we remain in place, with a lot of aid and a lot of help. And the suffering of the—the human condition is improving, and suffering is less because of the United States of America.

Thank you all. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, USA, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. H.R. 3833, approved December 4, was assigned Public Law No. 107–317.

Remarks on Lighting the Hanukkah Menorah

December 4, 2002

Welcome. This is the sixth night of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. This holiday marks the victory of Jewish patriots over oppression more than two millennia ago. The menorah represents an ancient miracle, in which a lamp with only enough oil for one day burned eight.

Each year, Hanukkah brings a message of hope—that light will overcome darkness, that goodness will overcome evil, and that faith can accomplish miracles.

Today, the spirit of those early patriots lives in the lives of the state of Israel and throughout the Jewish community and among all brave people who fight violence and terror. We pray that this season of light will also be a season of peace for the Jewish people.

We are joined this evening by the members of the Ramaz Chamber Choir. Ramaz is a modern orthodox Jewish day school in Manhattan, and we're grateful to the students for making the trip to join us today.

I also want to thank Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia for the use of this beautiful menorah. Founded in 1795, Rodeph Shalom was the first Ashkenazic con-

gregation established in the Western Hemisphere.

Lighting the menorah will be Daniella and Alexandra Wald from New York City. We welcome the girls here, and the honor is yours.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. in the Bookseller's Area in the East Wing at the White House.

Statement on the 100th Birthday of Senator Strom Thurmond

December 4, 2002

As United States Senator Strom Thurmond turns 100, I am proud to join the people of South Carolina in praising him, his values, and his good works.

Celebrating his 100th birthday as a sitting U.S. Senator is unique in our history, as was his 1954 election to the Senate as a write-in candidate. He has served his fellow citizens as teacher, coach, State legislator, and Governor. Additionally, while serving as a circuit court judge, he volunteered for combat duty during World War II and later landed a glider at Normandy on D-Day at the age of 41. For his military service, he earned 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart, Belgian Order of the Crown, and French Croix de Guerre.

I had the privilege of campaigning across South Carolina with Senator Thurmond in 1988. I will never forget his beautiful speeches, his love for the people, and their love for him.

My family and I are among the myriad who have great respect and admiration for the Senator. His patriotism, courage, and lifetime dedication to South Carolina and his Nation will always be remembered. I am looking forward to having Senator Thurmond at the White House Friday to celebrate his centennial year.

God bless you, Strom. The Nation and I are grateful for your life of service.